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Technology Center 2600

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re Application of:

Date: January 18, 2002

Michael A. RAMIREZ and Eric C. ANDERSON

Serial No.: 09/032,177

Group Art Unit: 2612

Filed: February 27, 1998

Examiner: Ho, Tuan

For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR DISPLAYING OVERLAY BARS IN A  
DIGITAL IMAGING DEVICEAssistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

2/20/02  
GJ

In response to the restriction requirement dated December 31, 2001, Applicant provisionally elects Group I (claims 1-7), with traverse. In requiring the restriction, the Examiner concludes that the inventions of Groups I and II are unrelated because "the different inventions have different functions such as the invention of Group II does not need any luminance signal for performing the function."

Applicant respectfully disagrees. Claim 8 recites "means for merging the contents of the first buffer with the second buffer." Page 28 of specification recites that the merging is done by "halving the luminance value of each pixel of the image data from the back store buffer." Thus, as in Group I, the invention of Group II may use the luminance for

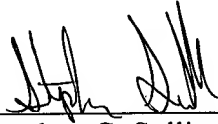
performing the function.

If any unresolved issues remain, please contact Applicant's attorney at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

January 18, 2002

Date



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